**Four-laning of NH 215**

543. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-laning of the Panikoili-Rajamunda NH-215, connecting iron ore rich Keonjhar to Kalinga Nagar Industrial Complex in Jajpur, is likely to be delayed;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the above stretch of road is accident prone area due to traffic congestion and the residents of Jajpur and Keonjhar have been demanding immediate four-laning of the NH for safety of life and property; and

(d) if so, the action plan of the Centre to expedite its completion on a top-priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the increase in traffic and consequential congestion coupled with public demand, the four-laning NH 215 from Panikoili-Rajamunda has been included under the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-IIIA of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). NHAI has already taken up the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and the bids on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis will be invited after the necessary approval from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPP AC).

(d) The tentative target date of completion of four-laning of NH 215 is December, 2010.

**Tuticorin Port Trust**

†544. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by Government since January, 2007, from Members of Parliament, Tuticorin Town Merchants Association, Tuticorin and other persons against the Chairman of Tuticorin Port Trust;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government on these complaints and when was it done; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Six complaints have been received by Department of Shipping since January, 2007. Some of the same complaints have also been forwarded to us from the President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, Rajya Sabha Secretariat and some Union Ministers and Members of Parliament. Details are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Factual comments on complaints received since January, 2007 have been obtained from Chairman, Tuticorin Port Trust. They are being examined for appropriate action.

***Statement***

*Details of complaints received by Deptt. of Shipping*

**1. Complaints received from M/s. Vicnivaas Agency, Tuticorin**

illegal demolition of warehouse with personal vendetta.

**2. Complaints received from Tuticorin District All Parties Representation**

(i) Arbitrary demolition of a Godown worth Rs.1.50 crores built by M/s. PPMT on the port's land that led to hunger strike at Tuticorin on 13.2.2007.

(ii) Chairman, Tuticorin Port Trust not behaving properly while dealing with officers, Port Users and Trustees.

(iii) Conflict with organization such as Food Corporation of India.

(iv) Ill treating senior officers.

**3. Complaints received from Coromandal Mini Salt Producers' Association**

(i) Demolition of godown constructed by M/s. Vicnivaas Agency.

(ii) Tender for dredging work for Sethusamudram Project.

(iii) Certain posts are lying vacant in Tuticorin Port Trust because of Chairman's vindictive attitude and cruel mentality.

(iv) Retirement benefits have not been granted to certain retired officers.

(v) Non supportive, non cooperative and adamant approach on the part of Chairman while dealing with exporters as Chairman refused to refund the amount of Rs. 1.80 crores collected as minimum guarantee tonnage.

(vi) Vacation of land allotted to M/s. Diamond Shipping Agencies.

(vii) Problems faced by the importer of Pulses with the Chairman leading to diverting their ship to other Port.

(viii) No development work has taken place in the Sethusamudram Project during the tenure of Shri Raghupathy.

(ix) Suggestions of the Trustees are ignored and they are not respected.

**4. Complaints received from Thoothukudi North District Congress Committee**

(i) There is no marked growth in traffic on an annualized basis either on export front or on import since Shri Raghupathy assumed the office.

(ii) Non extending cooperation to handling agents of Coal importers.

(iii) Chairman forfeited security deposit of Rs.15 millions as penalty for non performance from one pioneering exporter. The case pertains to M/s. Mineral Enterprises.

(iv) Chairman did not allow anchorage of vessels of importers compelling them to take away the vessels to other ports - image of Tuticorin Port Trust as a user friendly port diminished.

(v) Non cooperative attitude with organization like Food Corporation of India.

(vi) Ministry of Shipping has returned a number of resolutions passed under Chairman for exceeding his powers.

(vii) Chairman allotted same place for unloading and dumping of fertilizers, copper concentrate and food grains like wheat.

(viii) Many posts of Head of the Departments are lying vacant.

(ix) Slow progress of work in Sethusamudram Channel Project.

(x) Revenue details of Tuticorin Port Trust Labour Pool are handled at the level of Chairman and keeping away trom Tuticorin Port Trust Board.

(xi) Chairman has been far exceeding the defined powers and has been behaving autocratically on several occasions. He collected several crores from handling agents on the pretext of contribution to development of Tuticorin town.

(xii) Chairman has introduced rent for using Railway Marshalling yard for packing wheat which was unheard of because of his dislike of Food Corporation of India's handling agent.

(xiii) Chairman created hurdles on smooth execution of work of handling import of wheat from M/s. Vicnivaas Agency appointed by Food Corporation of India.

**5. Complaints received from Tuticorin Merchant Association**

(i) Illegal demolition of warehouse of M/s. Vicnivaas Agency, Tuticorin.

**6. Complaints received from Tuticorin Town Merchants Association**

(i) Illegal demolition of warehouse of Mis Vicnivaas Agency, Tuticorin.